



AN IMPROVED SURGICAL BED.

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IT is needless to emphasize the importance of a proper bed, not alone for the comfort and welfare of the patient, but also for the assistance which it affords the nurse in conveniently handling the sufferer.

A perfect hospital bed should be constructed with reference to cleanliness and asepsis. In addition, it should be endowed with strength and so arranged as to afford the greatest possible comfort to the occupant. The bed, as represented in Fig. 1, is practically the same as the one shown in the excellent text-book on nursing, by Isabella Hampton, after which it was constructed. It is to the modifications and additions that I desire to call attention, and for which claims of originality are filed. The dimensions of the bed, as shown in Fig. 1, are six and three-fourths feet in length from post to post, the width forty-three and one-half inches from side bar to side bar, the height from floor to top of side bar twenty-three inches. The wire bottom simply rests upon the side bars by four semi-cleats. The top of this frame is four inches above the side bar, and clears the latter as well as the two ends by three inches. This enables the nurse to cleanse, practically, the entire bed as often as may be desired without any contact whatever with the bedding, and allows the patient to lie, as it were, upon a plane which is free of the bed save at the four points where the semi-cleats rest upon the side bars.

Fig. 2 shows the arrangement of the stirrup at the head of

the bed, by which the patient is able to change position without any additional assistance. In the same plate can be seen the tray resting, by means of a pair of claws, upon the side bars in such a manner as to allow it to slide up and down on the side bars as though upon tracks. This tray is intended not alone to afford a convenient means of serving food, but can be used as a support for books or other articles which contribute to the pastime of the occupant.

Fig. 3 represents a back rest for placing the patient in a convenient semi-recumbent posture, as may be desired during convalescence. The rest consists of a piece of very heavy grade of duck, measuring from side to side thirty-five and one-half inches, and from top to bottom twenty inches. The arrangement of the rest almost explains itself in the cut. The side bars have a small quarter-inch hole into which is slipped the hook which holds the bottom of the rest. The top of the rest is supplied with four straps which are fastened by means of a triangular loop of iron into the corresponding hooks upon the reels. By means of a crank the whole is drawn taut and held, as shown in the accompanying cut. The canvas cover, together with the straps, impart to the whole a very comfortable spring.

Fig. 4 illustrates the manner in which the patient can be raised from the bed without disturbing the horizontal position. As seen in the cut, this arrangement consists of a sheet of the heaviest duck having the exact size of the bed. Its two ends are supplied with iron rods in the form of ordinary gas piping, and supplied with four strong leather straps. The straps at the lower end are short and are supplied with hooks which are thrown over the round iron cross-piece at the foot of the bed. The straps at the upper end are longer, and are supplied with hooks just the same as those attached to the upper end of the rest. Whenever it becomes necessary to raise the patient, the nurse fastens the lower end of the canvas, by throwing the hooks over the iron round at the foot of the bed, and then carefully "works" the sheet of duck under the patient. When the head is reached, the loops are fastened to the hooks in the reels, and the patient is raised by gradually drawing the whole taut. This ele-



FIG. 1.—Showing the bed as it appears devoid of bedding and attachments.



FIG. 2.—Showing the arrangement of the stirrup and eating-tray.



FIG. 3.—Showing the arrangement of the back-rest.



FIG. 4 illustrates the device for elevating the patient while in the recumbent posture.

vates the patient clear of the bed and affords an easy method of changing the entire bedding.

The bed as just described possesses the advantage of strength, cleanliness, and convenient portability. Its dimensions have been carefully studied to afford the greatest convenience to the surgeon, nurse, and patient.

In conclusion, I beg to thank Messrs. Richard Kny & Co., of New York City, for the pains they have taken in placing the bed before the public, as well as for the use of the excellent plates which they have kindly supplied.

